

Following the March 19 release of the Productivity Commission's recommendations on book imports I would like these remarks to be noted. They follow my submission on January 11, 2008.

Each year Australian publishers receive thousands of unsolicited manuscripts from would-be authors. Some survive the extremely rigorous selection process and join the outstanding works of our many talented local authors on booksellers' shelves. But many do not, quite often because they lack a cohesive plot, are too wordy, or fail to reach a sensible conclusion.

Each of these crucial shortcomings apply to the Commission's "Discussion Draft". While there's no doubting the Commissioners' honest and wide-ranging attempt to understand the industry's deep concerns over the issue, as the APA's March 20 media release succinctly stated: "This is a Clayton's recommendation...they [the recommendations] are unworkable and destructive".

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